

## "Best Historic Locations in San Francisco"

Created by: Cityseeker

 14 Locations Bookmarked



 by Photograph by Robert A. Estremo 

### Mission San Francisco de Asis

"Mission District's Namesake"

Founded by Father Junipero Serra in 1779, Mission San Francisco de Asis, also known as Mission Dolores, is the oldest structure in San Francisco. The mission and the city that surrounds it was named after St. Francis of Assisi, the founder of the Franciscan Order. The Mission Dolores has gone through several repairs and renovations since its founding and the mission's original adobe structure still stands on-site, as well as a section of the original cemetery. The mission was the first location to be designated by the City of San Francisco as a protected historical landmark in 1968.



 +1 415 621 8203

 [www.missiondolores.org/](http://www.missiondolores.org/)

 [parish@missiondolores.org](mailto:parish@missiondolores.org)

 3321 16th Street, San Francisco CA



 by Bobak Ha'Eri 

### Grace Cathedral

"Neo-Gothic Landmark"

This impressive structure crowning Nob Hill was built on the site of the Crocker Mansion after the 1906 earthquake and fire. One of the main attractions of the cathedral are the stained glass windows. These windows showcase over 1000 figures, with some of them dating back as far as the 1930s. The gilded bas-reliefs that adorn the doors of the main entrance are cast from Ghiberti's original molds for the Gates of Paradise that adorn the Baptistry in Florence. The cathedral also boasts two labyrinths. The outdoor one is made of Terrazzo stone and the indoor one from limestone.



 +1 415 749 6300

 [www.gracecathedral.org/](http://www.gracecathedral.org/)

 [Info@gracecathedral.org](mailto:Info@gracecathedral.org)

 1100 California Street, San Francisco CA

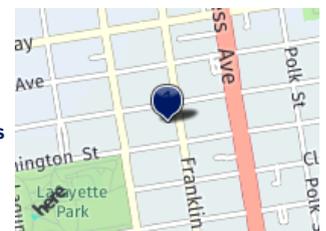


 by Elisa.rolle 

### Haas-Lilienthal House

"A Queen Anne Victorian"

The first thing you will learn here is that the fanciful polychrome paint jobs on San Francisco's Victorians are a recent invention. This turreted-and-gabled gingerbread fantasy is a uniform and authentic shade of gray. Inside, this large house still feels like the family home that it was from 1886 to 1972, with rooms covered in expensive wood paneling, embossed wallpapers and featuring marble fireplaces. Guided tours leave every 20-30 minutes and last about an hour.

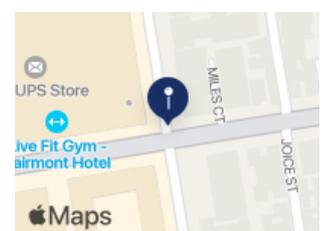


 +1 415 441 3004

 [www.sfheritage.org/haas-lilienthal-house/](http://www.sfheritage.org/haas-lilienthal-house/)

 [sadams@sfheritage.org](mailto:sadams@sfheritage.org)

 2007 Franklin Street, San Francisco CA



## Nob Hill

### "Panoramic Views of the City"

Nob Hill is located between some of San Francisco's most popular tourist spots such as Union Square, the Cable Car Museum and Fisherman's Wharf. Historically, Nob Hill played a significant role in the city as powerful businessmen of the 19th Century like Leland Stanford built their mansions in the area due to its stunning views. Try to spot locations shown in classic films such as Vertigo and Dirty Harry, or spend your time sipping coffee in Cafe Mozart. Pace yourself though, the steep hills can be killer on your knees!

+1 415 391 2000 (Tourist Information)

Hyde Street, San Francisco CA



by Janitors

## Chinatown

### "Non-Stop Bustle"

Chinatown, one of the busiest areas in the city, is a hodgepodge of shops, restaurants and businesses of every kind. The vibrant and close-knit community that lives within this neighborhood has also made it one of San Francisco's top tourist destinations. Thankfully, there are many side streets, quiet shops and traditional restaurants that provide some relief from the bustle outside. Try your luck at one of the hundreds of dining options in the area, especially those serving Dim Sum, as they can be some of the best in the city. Also make sure to stop in some of the small herbal shops for some unusual trinkets and art.



+1 888 212 3203

www.sanfranciscochinatown.com/

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Chinatown, San Francisco CA



by Allie\_Caulfield

## Haight-Ashbury

### "Heart of the Hippie"

Haight-Ashbury is a district in San Francisco named after the intersections of Haight and Ashbury Streets, known to many as The Haight. It encompasses the area from Golden Gate Park and Oak Street to Baker Street and the Buena Vista Park. This district is famous for its role in the 1960s hippie movement, and remains a popular tourist attraction for its bohemian vibe. Many restored Victorian houses can still be found gracing the streets in the neighborhood.



+1 415 391 2000 (Tourist Information)

Haight Street and Ashbury street, San Francisco CA

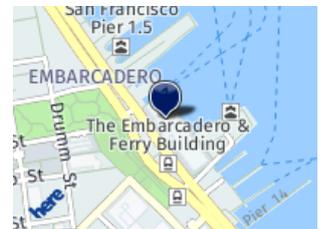


by Meriç Dağlı on Unsplash

## Ferry Building Marketplace

### "Waterfront Icon"

The Ferry Building Marketplace is a must-see for San Francisco visitors. This multi-million dollar development has an abundance of activities for the entire family. The marvelous building was designed by renowned architect Arthur Page Brown in Beaux Arts Style. Similar to that of the iconic Giralda Bell Tower in Seville, the clock tower of this building is a popular landmark and can be seen from afar. Take a tour of the historic Ferry Building, browse through antique shops, enjoy a view by the bay and a bowl of chowder at Ferry Plaza Seafood or buy organic produce at the Farmer's Market. Enjoy the sights and sounds of what makes the Ferry Building one of the Bay's most popular destinations for entertainment, food, and fun.



+1 415 983 8030

www.ferrybuildingmarketplace.com/

info@ferrybuildingmarketplace.com

1 Ferry Building, San Francisco CA



by "Public Domain" ©

## Coit Tower

### "Towering Views"

Conventional wisdom holds that this iconic monument is shaped like a fire-hose nozzle. It is not, at least not by design. The tower is the gift of Lilly Hitchcock Coit, an eccentric heiress who managed to stand out in a city that teems with eccentricity. Lilly's particular passion was for the San Francisco Fire Department. The money she left in her will for the city's beautification was used to construct the Art Deco tower on Telegraph Hill in 1932. The view from here is one of the most impressive in San Francisco, offering unrestricted sights of the scenic Bay, the neighboring bridges, and the Marin Headlands. Inside, the first floor is ornamented with excellent murals, commissioned in 1933, that depict San Francisco's history. The tower's summit can be accessed by taking its elevator for a small fee.



+1 415 249 0995

[sfrecpark.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/Coit-Tower-290](http://sfrecpark.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/Coit-Tower-290)

1 Telegraph Hill Boulevard, San Francisco CA

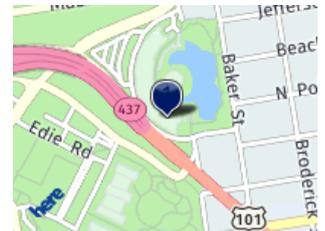


by derwiki ©

## Palace of Fine Arts

### "Greco-Roman Palace"

Constructed as a temporary attraction for the 1915 Pan-Pacific International Exhibition, Palace of Fine Arts continues to enchant the city. The original plaster, which made up the monument's exterior, has been gradually replaced, with funds raised by the Marina's residents who wanted to preserve a graceful part of their landscape. Swans in the adjoining lagoon glide by the soaring ochre-tinted colonnades and the imposing dome rigged with panels of centaurs and warriors. Stroll inside the dome and marvel at the uncanny acoustics, then enjoy a picnic lunch on one of the park benches to provide an unparalleled view of this gem.



+1 415 563 6504

[www.palaceoffinearts.org/](http://www.palaceoffinearts.org/)

3301 Lyon Street, San Francisco CA

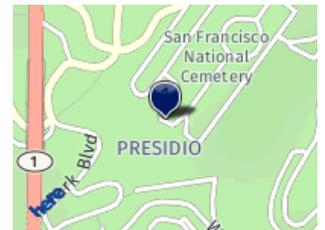


by Will Elder ©

## Presidio of San Francisco

### "Large Park of Old"

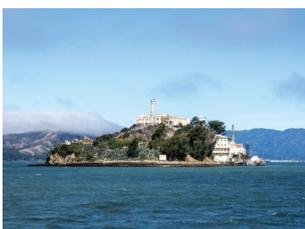
Overlooking the San Francisco Bay, the Presidio is one of San Francisco's best kept and oldest parks. The Presidio Trust, along with the National Park Service, seeks to preserve the heritage and architecture of the area while providing both locals and tourists with a splendid recreational spot. Visitors to the park can admire several restored military buildings and embark on explorations of the expansive area. Attractions such as the "Spire," attributed to artist Andy Goldsworthy, and other unique additions have even helped the park be featured in numerous TV shows and movies. The Presidio is an excellent destination to visit with the entire family, and the park also offers tours to help acquaint you with all it has to offer. It is open year-round, and entry is free.



+1 415 561 4323

[www.nps.gov/prsf/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/prsf/index.htm)

103 Montgomery Street, San Francisco CA



by BKD ©

## Alcatraz Island

### "The Legendary Rock"

A mere 1.25 miles (2.01 km) off the coast of San Francisco, Alcatraz Island boasts a fascinating history that extends far beyond its stint as a federal penitentiary from 1934 to 1963; it is also the site of the West Coast's oldest operating lighthouse, the remains of a historic military fortress, and a bird sanctuary. Although within sight of the city, Alcatraz is isolated from the outside world, surrounded by the frigid waters of the bay, the perilous currents making escape virtually impossible. This very fact made Alcatraz an apt choice for a prison meant to house some of the country's most notorious criminals, including the likes of Al Capone, Robert Franklin



Stroud and Alvin Karpis. The year 1969 marked the beginning of another intriguing chapter in the history of Alcatraz when a group of Native American activists occupied the island for 19 months, signs of which are still visible to this day. Amid this turbulent narrative thrives a vibrant habitat for native flora and fauna, creating a miniature world of startling contrasts where the haunting remains of the prison stand amid a striking landscape of rock pools, rugged coasts and lush flora. The isle is now a tourist attraction, one of San Francisco's most popular, with self-guided and guided tours that delve into the past of the island as a whole and the prison in particular.

+1 415 561 4900

[www.nps.gov/alca/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/alca/index.htm)

Alcatraz Island, San Francisco CA



by Maarten van den Heuvel on Unsplash

## Golden Gate Bridge

"The Gate to the Bay"

Named one of the Wonders of the Modern World by the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Golden Gate Bridge spans the eponymous strait that links the San Francisco Bay to the Pacific Ocean. Designed by Joseph Strauss, Irving Morrow, and Charles Ellis, the bridge opened in 1937 as the world's longest suspension bridge, its main span measuring at an impressive 4,200 feet (1,280 meters) in length. The bridge is not quite golden, but is instead a bright orange, its Art Deco towers looming through the dense fog that often mires the bay; a sight that has come to be emblematic of the city of San Francisco. The bridge ferries vehicular and pedestrian traffic between San Francisco and Marin City, the vista points on either side boasting awe-inspiring views of the Golden Gate, while the bridge itself promises unmatched views of the bay.



+1 415 921 5858

[www.goldengate.org/](http://www.goldengate.org/)

[bridgecomments@goldengate.org](mailto:bridgecomments@goldengate.org)

Highway 101, San Francisco CA

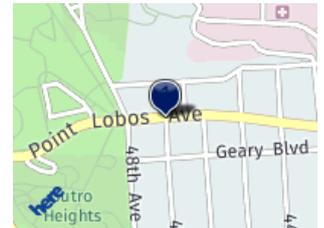


by Xaven

## Sutro Baths

"Impressive Ruins"

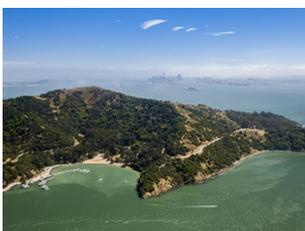
Sutro Baths was built in the late 19th Century. It was a large swimming pool owned privately by Adolph Sutro, who was a former mayor of San Francisco. It had seven different pools, one having fresh water and the others having salt water, but varying in temperatures. Below the Cliff House, a small beach inlet was filled almost hiding the vast iron, glass and concrete structure. The bath had a high operating cost, due to which it eventually closed and a fire in 1966 almost destroyed it leaving behind the ruins. The ruins of the Sutro Baths are open to the visitors as well as the cave where you can catch a glimpse of bats.



+1 415 561 4323 (Tourist Information)

[www.sutrobaths.com/](http://www.sutrobaths.com/)

1004 Point Lobos Avenue, USS San Francisco Memorial, San Francisco CA

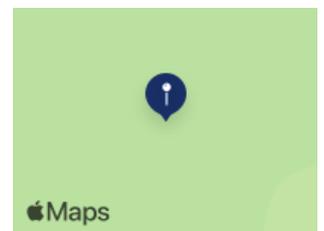


by Taras Bobrovitsky

## Angel Island State Park

"State Park in the Bay"

What Ellis Island was to the East Coast, Angel Island was to the West Coast. Graffiti left by immigrants who were awaiting admission or deportation can be seen on the walls of the holding areas. The wooded 740-acre (300 hectare) island sits peacefully in the middle of San Francisco Bay. In addition to the immigration facility, the island is also home to two now-abandoned military installations, Fort McDowell and Camp Reynolds. Hiking and biking trails circle the island and offer spectacular views of the poppy-colored peaks of the Golden Gate Bridge and the iconic San Francisco skyline. Volunteer guides lead informative tours of the island's historical sites and one can even catch a glimpse of the indigenous deer population. Camping is allowed with proper permits. Ferry service varies according to the season.



+1 415 435 1915

[www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=468](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=468)

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Fire Road, Angel Island, Tiburon CA

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